

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

SIL-01 JUSE-00 FTC-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 PA-01

PRS-01 /090 W

----- 057456

R 300527Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1727

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MUSCAT 1448

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD EGEN PFOR MU

SUBJECT: U.S. CONTACTS WITH BOYCOTT AUTHORITIES

REF: (A) STATE 298989; (B) MUSCAT 1239 NOTAL

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1. WE CONCUR WITH DEPT'S REFTEL REGARDING CONTINUED AVOIDANCE OF CONTACT WITH LOCAL BOYCOTT AUTHORITIES. LOCAL BOYCOTT OFFICE IN MUSCAT, A PART OF MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, HAS NO INDEPENDENT ABILITY TO MAKE EXCEPTION OR INFLUENCE OMANGOV ON BOYCOTT IMPLEMENTATION. DECISIONS REGARDING OMANGOV ADHERENCE TO BOYCOTT ARE MADE BY FOREIGN MINISTRY OR BY SULTAN AND HIS ADVISERS. WE SEE OCCASIONAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN EMBASSY AND SENIOR OMANGOV OFFICIALS AS ONLY EFFECTIVE MEANS OF INFLUENCING OMANGOV POLICY IN THIS MATTER.

2. APPROACHING BOYCOTT OFFICE DIRECTLY MIGHT ALSO UNDULY FOCUS OMANGOV ATTENTION ON BOYCOTT ISSUE. AT TIME WHEN OMANGOV IS STARTING TO REACT TO RECENT U.S. ANTI-BOYCOTT MEASURES. AS WE NOTED IN REFTEL (B), APPLICATION OF BOYCOTT IS NOT STRICTLY ENFORCED AND INVOLVES COMMERCIAL COMPETITION AS MUCH AS ARAB-ISRAELI POLITICS. THE OMAN BOYCOTT OFFICE IS OFTEN SLOW IN APPLYING SANCTIONS TO INDIVIDUAL COMPANIES WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN PROCLAIMED BY CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE IN DAMASCUS. IGNORANCE ON THE PART OF THE BOYCOTT OFFICE OF A COMPANY'S STATUS ON BOYCOTT LIST IS NOT UNCOMMON, AND SANCTIONS WHEN APPLIED ARE NOT VERY THOROUGH. (FOR EXAMPLE, HOME OFFICE AND CERTAIN BRANCHES OF A COMPANY MAY BE BOYCOTTED, BUT IMPORTS FROM OTHER BRANCHES OR SUBSIDIARIES ARE NOT COVERED.) IN SHORT, IN ABSENCE OF ZEAL OR EFFICIENCY IN ENFORCING BOYCOTT ON PART OF OMANGOV, WE RECOMMEND LETTING SLEEPING DOGS LIE.

3. NONETHELESS, SINCE ROLE AND INFLUENCE OF LOCAL BOYCOTT OFFICES FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY CAN DIFFER SO WIDELY, WE SUPPORT MANAMA'S POSITION (MANAMA 1451, PARA 2) THAT USG POSITION SHOULD BE AS FLEXIBLE AS POSSIBLE TO PERMIT MAXIMUM DISCRETION FOR EACH POST TO DEAL WITH WHOMEVER IT SEES FIT ON BOYCOTT MATTERS.
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Message Attributes

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